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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

SORRELL, ERON J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2182

DATE MAILED: 01/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/888,976

Applicant(s)

YIN, MEMPHIS ZHIHONG

Examiner

Eron J Sorrell

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 October 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 and 18-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 5,6,16,19,20 and 26 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-4,7,10-15,21,25, and 27-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8,9,18 and 22-24 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 June 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 18 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 18 depends from a canceled claim. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
4. Claim 14 recites the limitation "the latch" in lines 1-2 of the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1,3,4,7,10, and 27-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Janky et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,549,942 hereinafter "Janky").

7. Referring to claim 1, Janky teaches a system comprising:

a portable computer including a keyboard, a display, a housing, a computer electrical connector and a computer mechanical connector (see items 51 and 79 in figure 1 and lines 1-32 of column 2; Note the Examiner is construing the docking station 79 as being included by the portable computer);

a recorded media storage and playback device including a housing defining an exterior, a speaker (see item 103 in figure 2), a user-manipulatable playback and control element associated

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with exterior of the housing (see item 95 in figure 2), a storage and playback device electrical connector configured to mate with the computer electrical connector and a storage and playback device mechanical connector configured to mate with the computer mechanical connector (see item 83 in figure 2; note the docking connector 83 provides both an electrical and mechanical connection);

the computer electrical connector, computer mechanical connector, storage and playback device electrical connector and storage and playback device mechanical connector being arranged such that the computer electrical connector with mate with the storage and playback device electrical connector when the computer mechanical connector mates with the storage and playback device mechanical connector (see lines 11-21 of column 6).

8. Referring to claims 3 and 4, Janky teaches the portable computer housing includes a first housing portion and a second housing portion pivotable relative to the first housing portion between an open position and a closed position and further teaches the keyboard is mounted on the first housing portion and the display is mounted on the second housing portion (see lines 1-32 of column 2; Note Janky discloses the personal computer can

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be a laptop or notebook which have the above described configuration).

9. Referring to claim 7, Janky teaches the recorded media storage and playback device comprises a digital storage medium (see item labeled 92 in figure 2) and a digital decoder (see line 42-54 of column 6).

10. Referring to claim 10, Janky teaches the computer housing is connected to the storage and playback device housing when the computer mechanical connector mates with the storage and playback device mechanical connector (see lines 22-28 of column 6).

11. Referring to claims 27-29, Janky teaches the user-manipulatable playback control element comprises a button that is associated with a control panel and the control panel includes a display (see lines 29-40 of column 6).

12. Claims 11 and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Rhoads et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,540,685 hereinafter "Rhoads").

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13. Referring to claim 11, Rhoads discloses a portable computer comprising:

a main housing (see figure 3);

a keyboard and display associated with the main housing
(see items labeled 31 and 35 in figure 3);

a handle associated with the main housing and including a
data connector and a mechanical connector (see line 66 of column
2 to line 11 of column 3 and paragraph bridging columns 4 and
5);

14. Referring to claims 13, Rhoads teaches the mechanical
connector comprises a latched that is biased to a lock position
(see paragraph bridging columns 4 and 5).

15. Referring to claim 14, Rhoads discloses a latch including a
button that when depressed moves the latch to an unlock position
(see lines 48-61 of column 6).

16. Referring to claim 15, Rhoads discloses that the handle
defines a surface that faces away from the main housing and the
electrical connector and mechanical connector are associated
with the surface (see figure 4).

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

17. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

18. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Janky in view of Freadman (U.S. Patent No. 6,263,381).

19. Referring to claim 2, Janky fails to disclose the electrical connector comprises a USB connector.

Freadman discloses a peripheral device that electrically connects to a computer housing wherein the electrical connection comprises a USB connection (see lines 45-64 of column 1).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the apparatus of Janky with the teachings of Freadman such that the electrical connection comprises a USB connection. Freadman suggest that the use of USB connector allows for distribution of

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power without the need for a separate power supply attachment (see lines 61-64 of column 1).

20. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rhoads in view of Freadman (U.S. Patent No. 6,263,381).

21. Referring to claim 12, Rhoads fails to disclose the electrical connector comprises a USB connector.

Freadman discloses a peripheral device that electrically connects to a computer housing wherein the electrical connection comprises a USB connection (see lines 45-64 of column 1).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the apparatus of Rhoads with the teachings of Freadman such that the electrical connection comprises a USB connection. Freadman suggest that the use of USB connector allows for distribution of power without the need for a separate power supply attachment (see lines 61-64 of column 1).

22. Claims 21 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Janky in view of Sheppard (U.S. Patent No. 6,619,597).

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23. Referring to claim 21, Janky teaches a system comprising:

a portable computer including a housing defining a housing that faces in the forward direction and a rear end, a keyboard, a display that faces in the forward direction, and a computer electrical connector (see item labeled 51 in figure 1 and lines 1-32 of column 2; Note that Janky discloses the PC can be a notebook computer which has the above configuration);

a recorded media storage and playback device including a housing, a speaker and a media storage and playback device electrical connector (see figure 2 and lines 29-54 of column 6);

the portable computer and recorded media storage and playback device being respectively configured such that the recorded media storage and playback device is fixedly mountable on or within the portable computer and, when so mounted, the computer electrical connector will mate with the media storage and playback device electrical connector (see lines 37-49 of column 6 and item labeled 30 in figure 4).

Janky fails to teach the computer electrical connector faces in the forward direction.

Sheppard teaches that computer electrical connectors (option slots) can be located in the front of the computer and

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face in the forward direction (see lines 7-23 of column 5 and figure 13).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the system of Janky with the teachings of Sheppard. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make such modification in order to provide a different design of the notebook PC.

24. Referring to claim 25, Janky teaches the recorded media storage and playback device comprises a digital storage medium (see item labeled 92 in figure 2) and a digital decoder (see lines of 41-54 column 6).

Allowable Subject Matter

25. Claims 5,6,16,19,20, and 26 are allowed.

26. Claims 8,9, and 22-24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

27. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following reference is cited to show the current state of the art as it pertains to computer electrical and mechanical connectors:

U.S. Patent No. 5,918,163 to Rossi is cited as it shows a PCMCIA docking station location within the notebook computer housing.

28. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

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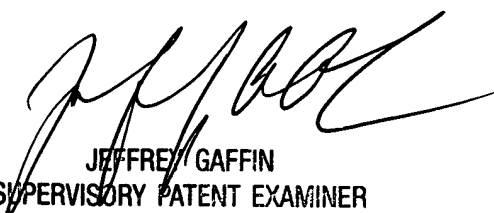
however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eron J Sorrell whose telephone number is 703 305-7800. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00AM - 5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A Gaffin can be reached on 703 308-3301. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 305-3900.

EJS
December 31, 2003



JEFFREY GAFFIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100